

WINNER OF THE KODANSHA MANGA OF THE YEAR AWARD!

MU SHI SHI

8·9·10

YUKI URUSHIBARA

アルレイ



MU
SHI
SHI

8·9·10

YUKI
URUSHIBARA

Deluxe Edition

DEL
REY

Ginko is a master of the ephemeral life-form known as mushi. Their influence can be as visible as a mountain never giving up its winter to allow for spring, or as subtle as a prank played in a child's game. To some they are a curse, to others they offer unimagined possibility. Read the final three volumes of Ginko's journeys in this one remarkable edition!

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虫
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師

Mushishi

10

Yuki Urushibara



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The Thread of Light



For
pity's
sake...

He took on
an older boy.
What kind
of freakish
strength is
that?



On top
of that,
he's so
irritable,
nobody
can
control
him!

Seeing
the
trouble
he gets
into
now...

...His
future
looks
neary.





That's
a lie!



You
know
that
isn't
true.

If you are a
good boy,
your mom's
illness will
be...



Hear
me!

Gen!



You are
going
to listen
to your
father!



She got
sick
because
she had
me.

Now she
never
wants to
see me
anymore!









.....
It's so pretty



It's like all
different
colors are
waving
and moving
on it.

Almost...
like it was
alive!



...those
things.

Just
like...



.....
But...

I'll
bet...

...I'm
not sup-
posed
to see
this.







So,
you're
Gen?



You've
grown up
pretty
tough,
huh?



I never
thought
that puny
baby
would
grow up to
be you.

You and I
have a bit
of history
from when
you were a
baby.



...
Who
are
you?





I'd be
worried
about that,
too.

Yeah.
That
figures.



Please
keep him
wrapped in
this...

...until he
has the
strength to
live on his
own.



What
are you
doing?

I'm putting
him in
special
clothes.



He doesn't
have any...

What are
you trying
to pull?



...
Yeah!
What
clothes?



...
Gee!

You're amazing!

Why don't
you...

...just let
him be like
this for a
while and
see.

I don't need
any sort of
payment
until you're
sure he's
grown and
strong.

...
That's
about...

...how
the
story
went.



When
you get
mad...

...you can't
control your
strength, can
you?



But it
looks
like it
did the
job a
little too
well.



The ability that lets you see mushi has grown too strong.

And the best time to fix it is while you're still a child. Especially if you find yourself losing control.



You may need a bit of mushi-kill.

.....
Mushi?



Yeah.

If you don't like it, I can take it all away.



...will I stop seeing that?



You don't like it either, right?

Then hold out your hand.



If I do...

...



Nothing's
coming
out...







...
I was asked
not to speak
about this,
but...



Back
then...

...just
what
did you
do to
him?

What I
wrapped
Gen
in...

...was
clothing
that she
made.

...I had
already
met Gen's
mother.



...even
before
the time
we met...







When my
son was
born...

...I sort of
wandered
between
life and
death.





Where is he...? Can you bring him?

.....
Thank goodness!



He's fine!
He's a healthy baby boy!



But I'll bring him back here!

So you stay here and get better!

I brought the boy back to my family's home.



.....
Yes...

You've been sleeping for days.



.....
All right...





Yes?

Say...
Mother?



It feels like...

...I've
been
born
again!



Did the
trees
and
grass...

...always
have that
much light
in them?





















Nearly all
living things
have it when
they're
born.

If it's
carelessly
plucked away,
they lose the
strength to
live.

But as an
infant, you
need the
Yohsoku
just to live.



With grown
children,
there is
nothing
to worry
about.



That
piece
of
cloth-
ing.

If the boy
wore it, or
maybe...

But
what
do I
do...?

Will my
boy...?

I'd like
to ask a
favor.



No!



...but on the other hand, he's got a bit too much Yōmeibou in his system.

On the one hand, he became stronger and tougher...

And you know the result of that.



...is somebody like his mother.

Right now...

...the only one who can pull the thread from him...



But it seems that doesn't work on him.

Normally, we Mushishi drain some of it out using a medicine.



...if we allowed the boy to see his mother...

This might all be difficult for you to believe, but...











Its time
passed...



...the
visions
of the
Terenyo
faded.



...and
before I
realized
it, I saw
my boy
from way
up above.



Back,
then...

...it was
like my
body
felt so
light...



I'm so
sorry...

...Yuh!

Don't
be...

I
should
apolo-
gize...



I was
happy...
that you
reased him
so well!

.....
Yes...



Oh, it's
plenty!

I'll probably
never get my
hands on any-
thing that so
rare!

Are you
sure that
is all you
want?



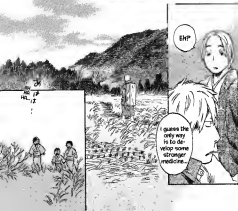
Can you
still see
it?

.....
That
fight...



.....
Here...

You can
have
this,
just as
I prom-
ised.





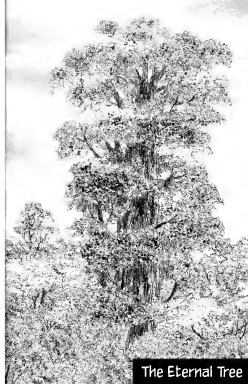
What?!

Maybe...

...he
doesn't
need it
anymore.







The Eternal Tree



Oh!

Just what I
wanted!
A plant!



You've
gotten
so big!

Ohh!
Futaba!

Welcome
home,
Kanta!



Daddy!



CRASH!

I'm sure
that when
I get
older, I'll
settle
down.

CRASH!

CRASH!

CRASH!





...what
it's
about?

I
wonder...

This tree
dream
again?

...what
it's
about?



...what
it's
about?

I
wonder...

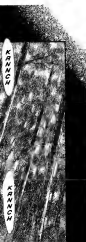
...what
it's
about?



...what
it's
about?



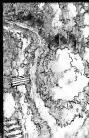






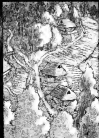
...and
making
them-
selves a
town.





This
can't...

I've
seen it
before.



That's
my town
as seen
from this
moun-
tain...!

...
Look at
that...



But
there's
no way
I could
remember
it...



Finally,
I can
solve this
mystery...



So the
tree
should
be right
in this
area.





.....
This can't be right...



Is this...
R...P



...I
should
go
home.

I
guess...



...
Exp

Wash!!

← I guess
he's
here







And they
always
center
around
one
spot.

...just as
if they had
seen them
with their
own eyes.



There are
people who
tell tales...

...of things
that nobody
could ever
know...



Did you
ever eat
a seed...

...that
looked
like a red
plum?



It was
really...

...a muski
called
Saborigi.

Oh,
yeah...



Tell
me!

Why
would
some-
thing
like this
happen?

It's like
my feet
turned into
the wood
of that
tree!

Man was I
shocked!



Inside that fruit...

...is stored all of the tree's memories.



When it senses that the tree is in danger, it gives off something that looks like a flower.

Eventually it takes the form of something that looks like a fruit, and leaves the tree.



It shelters inside trees and takes its nutrition from them.



...it becomes a part of the tree, and loses its ability to move.

if the host sits for a long time on the tree...

Eventually it becomes fully a part of the tree.



And when a bird or animal eats it...

...it nests inside the host's body waiting for the host to come near the tree again.











You're
supposed
to listen
to this!

Kazari!

...
I did! I've
heard it once
and time
already!



...
They
say this
tree...

...has been
standing
here for a
thousand
years.



...
This tree has
had a Sabongu
living inside
it for a long,
long time.

They say that
it's sprouted
the red flowers
twice before.



Then
listen to
it again!

And never
forget it!



One
day...

...you'll have
to tell it
to a young
Watan
yourself.



The second
time was
about a
hundred
and seventy
years ago.



These
are those
flowers.

The first
time they
were sighted
was some
five hundred
and fifty
years ago.



But...

...the people
of the village
risked their
own lives to
create the
wounded
tree.

And once
again,
the tree
managed
to survive.



Lightning
struck. It
and left
it badly
scarred.



It was
when
a huge
earthquake
struck the
land.

The land
was split,
and the tree
looked like
it would be
uprooted and
topple.

But
somehow
it survived.



The light
flow is
here.

And a tree
that has
lived on it
for so long
has taken
on special
power.

Such that
mankind
can do
nothing to
harm it.



Look. You
can see the
village from
here.



But they
couldn't
cut it—
no matter
what they
tried.

They wanted
to use the
mountain
land, so they
tried to cut
the tree
down.

The people
of the village
came here
some three
hundred
years
ago.



And from
that day,
the people
feared and
venerated
the tree.

Eventually, they
consecrated it
as a Shinto tree,
and took good
care of it.



I must say,
I'm a little
worried...



But I've
never seen
one as big
as this.

I've seen many
old, giant trees
since I was a
child.



...Fever and
Fever villagers
venerate this
tree.

Well,
since then...







At the time, most of the village...

...was in the business of growing trees for sale.













The
tree...

...produced
enough
income for
the entire
village to
live on for
a while.



It's
spreading
up...

It's
spreading
all over...



At the
time...

...I knew it was
the tree I had
to thank that
Kanta was able
to grow up
healthy.



And the
burned
mountain
side...

...recovered
with
unusual
speed.





This tree...

...had the ability to keep people and axes away from it.

So why were people able to cut it down?



...will secrete a poison from its leaves to protect itself.

A certain variety of trees, when infested by damage-causing bugs...



Especially the types that can change themselves to meet their challenges.

Vegetation can't move on its own.

But to make up for it, they are extremely aware of their surroundings.



...to allow itself to be cut down.

...changed itself.

It's possible that the tree...





...nobody
has been
able to
come up
with a good
solution.



No.

I've sent
letters to all
sorts of very
knowledgeable
people
looking for a
cure, but...

All it
does is
slow the
matura-
tion of the
mush.



I'll keep on
researching,
though.



All
right...



I'm
going to ask
some other
Mushi-
shi.

If
anything
happens
to you,
write it
down
here.



CRUNK



CRUNK



CRUNK



Daddy!!



SHGHT

SHGHT





.....
No different
than usual.

How are
you feeling
otherwise?



...something
might be
about to
happen.

Then...



Red...

...flow-
ers...



What
can it
be?

This
feel-
ing...

The
familiar
and
new...

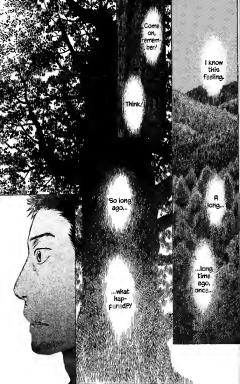
Is it
a fantasy



You
might
be...

...reson-
ating
with some
kind of
danger to
you.





Come
on,
remember!

I know
this
feeling.

Think!

So long
ago...

A
long...

...what
hap-
pened?

...long
time
ago,
once...

What's going on?

Kenta said we need to hurry...

What's going on?

Kenta said we need to hurry...

Eh? What?

I need everybody gathered up!

Eh? What?

I need everybody gathered up!

No.

We're still in danger. We have to go farther.

This should be all right, huh?

No.

We're still in danger. We have to go farther.

This should be all right, huh?

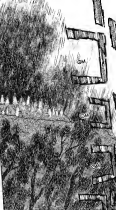
No.

We're still in danger. We have to go farther.

This should be all right, huh?

It's just about to happen...









Sorry
about
this...

You have
your own
houses
to
rebuild,
too!

It could
be...

...that
the old
Japanese
cedar tree
is still
watching
over us.



Right!

You
saved
our
lives!

Don't
give it a
thought!



We can't
pay it
back what
we owe it
anymore.

So instead
we're paying
it back to
you.



When we
cut down
that big
cedar tree,
it left a
scar...

...on
us
all...

...that
we feel
even
now.



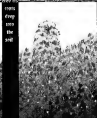
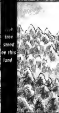
...the
village
pitches in
to help.

When
some-
body's in
trouble...

If there's
anything
that tree
wants to
pass on to
us...

...be sure
to tell us
all about it,
okay?

A long,
long
time...
Do long
a really
make
over
more...



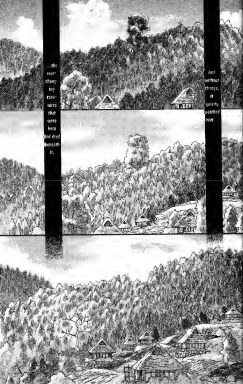
And
growth
the
country
high and
wide.

In
hollow
rooms
drop
into
the
cell.

And
there
stand
in this
land.

...the
country
by
the
sea
that
were
here
and
there
about
it.

And
without
things,
it
gaily
gathered
and





...there
was a
tree that
stood
here for
a long,
long
time.

Before
you were
born...

...and
still the
stories
would
never
end.

I could
tell story
after
story
about
it...



...about?

...about?

...about?

Come
over
here?



There's
a
story...

...of the
tree I
want to
tell you.



Night.

Suddenly
you're
hit by the
smell of
flowers...

...and it
brings
back the
thread
of a
memory.



Right.

Mem...



Kasoru

What's
the
mat-
ter?

We're
going
home!

But I can
never
remember
it.

It always seems
so nostalgic...

...but also
frightening...

What was it...?



The Scented Darkness

ア ア ア ア
ア





A
"Murder-
ship?"

Huh?



Come in.
You can
rest here.

Well, that
must be
pretty
rough.



We're all
healthy. We
may not
be much,
but we are
that.

I don't
know...



...but I
can't
seem to
get ahead.
That's
about all.

If you
want a
problem,
I work
and work...



Yeah.

If you're
feeling
sick, or if
strange
things are
happen-
ing...

...I might
be able to
help. What
do you
think?









.....
It sure
has
gotten
late.







—THE
STRATEGY—

Ch. 1
The
First
Lesson

Ep. 108
to 109

—It's
long,
but
also
fun—



It's the
something
fun
something.





Kaoru



No!
This
won't
do!

You
people
need to
shape
up!!



Our
reputation
gets worse
every year!



What
is it,
Mother?



The
tea is
ready!











seen her
somewhere
before...



But...



...who
can she
be...?





...I just had
this very
nostalgic
feeling.



Right
now...



Real?!



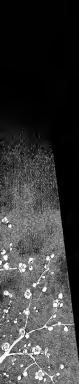
Let me
carry
that for
you!













THE
BIRD
WINDING

And I'm just
on the verge of
remembering.





Three
days...

Something
seems
odd.



What
could it
be?

What
could it
be?



...but
every
now and
then...

...I get
this
strong
nostalgic
feeling.



I've always

lived in
this house.



No!
This
won't
do!

You
people
need to
shape
up!!





...somewhere
before...

...seen
her...



He...



Thank
you!







I don't know...



...I might be able to help. What do you think?



Yeah.

If you're feeling sick, or if strange things are happening...



There is something I'm a little worried about.

Actually...



... Say...

Ginko. That was your name, right?









It's a pitch-black, tube-shaped tunnel...

...that puts out a small like flowers to lure in bugs and other small creatures.



...be a victim of a Kaijū.

You could...



I see...



If that happens...

...then the creatures just repeat the same life over again.



They say it takes the creatures it traps and puts them into a strange loop of time.



And...

...some-
time, some-
where in
your fu-
ture...

...you will
come
across
the same
Kairō
again.



Repeat...



...lived the
life you're
living a
number
of times
before.

...then
you're
already...



There's
no way
to prove
that this
happens
or not.

But...if
that's
what's
happening
to you...



...then
time will
go back
for you...

...and
you'll live
the same
life once
more.

If you don't
realize, and
go inside it
again...



It's impossible to know a person's whole life.



We have documented evidence that people with dual vs exist...

...but there's no method of investigating it.



I can't say if you are or you aren't.

In any event, I think you should avoid any dark places that smell like flowers.



So I'm...

...not...

...my life over and over...?



Actually, the fact that you have *dōji* *yu* means...

...that your life is playing out exactly as it did before.



...who has managed to make their lives turn out better than before.

I've never heard of a person victimized by Kairō..



There are things in my past I wish were different...

...but I'd rather see what lies ahead of me.



Don't run this...

...of going in and living out another life!



Do you go through life after life...

...eventually you get assimilated into the Kairō.



My daughter
is growing
up.

What
my
grand-
children
look
like.

A
life...

An
every-
day life
that I
haven't
yet
seen.













From
now
on...

...let's
live a new
everyday
life!



Eh?



All
this
time...

...I've
got
the feel-
ing like I've
been living
through a
long, happy
nightmare.



What's
just hap-
pened to
me?

What
happened
to you?





I'll get
you to a
doctor
soon!

Hang in
there!



Ita...



What
do I
do?

I'll never
make it to
the village
in time...



Her
body...

It's
getting
cold!



Don't
even
think...

...of going
in and living
our another
life!





And some day...

...in the very far future...



Say...

...Iku?



...you and I
will live to-
gether...



Can you
see the
flowers
coming
from in-
side here?

It's a
shortcut
to the
village.



It'll
be all
right.

You'll
come
out of
this
alive.







Eh...?

There's
something...

...that's just
on the edge of
my memory...



I
wonder...

...what it
was...?

It's
nothing.

No...



Is
some-
thing
the
matter?

Ikku!



I don't
know...

Something
nostalgic...

And a little
frightening...

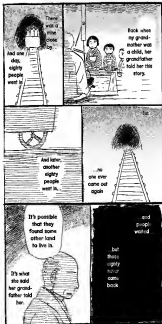


Who
is it?

I'm a
traveler.
But I can't
go on in
this rain.

I was hoping
I could ask
for shelter
for one
night?

A Tale of a
Very Long
Time Ago
Inside the
Rule Chapter





So she
peeked
inside, and...

...she saw
a tiny stone
statue of the
Buddha.

At one point, my
grandmother
went with her fa-
ther to the spot
where it used to
be and there was
a shrine there.



Eventu-
ally, the
mine was
closed
up.

...she found
a small hole
in the rock
just about
eye-height.



When my
grandmother
bent over
to wash her
hands...

...and it
pook one
was another
my Buddha
image.



When she
looked
around, she
found count-
less other
Buddha
images.

My grandmother will soon turn 100 years old, and her memory is gradually dimming. I wondered if there really was such a huge disaster near her home town, but when I tried to investigate, I couldn't uncover any facts. I'm sure her grandfather heard about a mine disaster, and passed along his own modified version to her. That version must have so resonated with my grandmother that she told her grandchild about it. I doubt my great, great grandfather ever expected his little story to be passed down through the generations. But now that I think of it, it makes me very happy.



...I heard
a very
strange
sound
on the
mountain.

A long
time
ago...



The
sound
of a
bell... P





...something was being celebrated all through the mountain range.

It sounded so though.



There were so many bell sounds...



...that the mountains echoed with it for a long time.

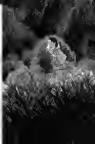
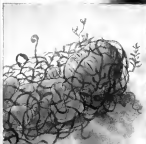
Drops of Bells (Part 1)

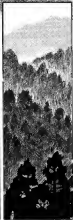
Hey! Is
the baby
born
yet?!



Nine
months
later...

...my
sister
was
born.







I must
be on
the light
flow.

This
moun-
tain
sure is
verdant.



Some-
thing's
keeping
an eye
on me,
huh...?



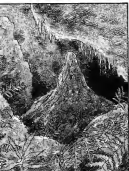
And if
that's the
case, then
it's the
monster...

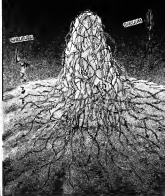


.....
Huh?













I'm Ginko.
A Muspel-
shi.

I was cross-
ing the
mountain,
so I wanted
to pay my
respects.



You were
pretty ex-
hausted.



Don't
move.
You'll
just
overheat
yourself!



This
medicine
will give
you
energy.



I thought
it might
even
work on a
master.



...but all those
tales were
of ages
ago.

I've
heard of
humans
being
chosen as
master...



...why are
you here
as the
master
of this moun-
tain?

I won-
dered...



Leave!



And the
human
masters
didn't live
long.

You look
pretty
weakened
yourself
right now.





What
kind...

...of girl
is she?



Did she
lose her
way or
some-
thing?

A
girl?



One
day, she
suddenly...

...wasn't
anywhere
to be
found any-
more.

...
I don't
know...

...had grass
growing from
her head from
the day she
was born.

My
sister...



...
I don't
know...

...if she's
like this
anymore,
but...

Hey!
Kaya!

...she'd go
wandering
off away
from the
house
alone.

Ever
since
she was
able to
walk...

And
we'd
pluck it
off.

...and
pluck it
off again,
but it kept
growing
back.

Kaya!

How
many
times
do I have
to say
it?!

You're
going to
get lost
out there!

You
went off
on your
own again,
didn't
you?

Just...

...where are
you trying to
go anyway?!







Kaya, that's wrong?

But...

Every so often she'd say something weird.



My sister...

...had an unusual knowledge of the whole mountain.



They're telling me to come home.



They're calling me.



But?

And...

...now
and then
she'd sit
there like
an empty
shell.



But
she'd
be really
weakened
after-
ward.

Sloely,
she'd
come
back to
normal.



Kaya!

Come
on!
Wake
up
Kaya!



Eat it
up and
get your
strength
back!



I brought
you some
mochi!

Look!

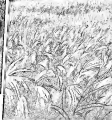


The witch's
really
picked up
 huh?



We have
to hurry
and get
home!















But where
could she
go in her
condition...?



She
didn't
come
back
here,
 huh?



XXXXXXXXXX





"...was
never quite
normal..."

"Your
sister..."



You're...

...just my
ordinary
little
sister.









it's better
not to
involve
yourself
anymore.

—
Even if you
happen to
run across
him...



Your brother
from when
you lived in
the village...

...is still
looking
for you.
You know
that,
right?



Over
the
years...

...bit
by bit...

...the weight
of the
mountain's
concerns
have pushed
it out.



Oh, I
see.



...what
the
human
heart is
like.

You've
already
forgot-
ten...



.....
KHV



Dam-
nit!!



Ph! mind?

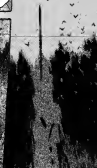


But
why...

They're
going
away.



+





Some-
thing
fell from
above—

...a
bird,
maybe
P



Kaya
...
P





It couldn't
have...

...any
thing to
do with
that gun-
shot...?



Where'd
she go?







Try wearing this, Kaya!

Here.



I thought you might be lonely and scared!

You spent all that time alone on the mountain, huh?



You won't feel that way ever again!

But...







She's nothing like that thing you described!



Like I said, she's just a normal girl!



Look at her!







The
river...

...is
glow-
ing...



U
r
r
h
h
!

...but why
is it be-
hind us?

It's an
echo...

Can
any-
body
hear
us?

Heey!

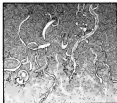


Look!



Eee!

...
is it
non-
sense?





if this
keeps
up...

...the
whole
mountain
will be an-
nihilated.

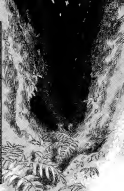








Drops of Bells (Part 2)



.....
So you
came
back?





Do you think you can take it?



.....
The mountain...

...has to be put back like it was.



.....
I just do...

...what I always do.



This may not...

...cheer you up at all but...

I'm really happy to have met you.





I'll be
back to
see you
again in
the near
future.

...stay
healthy
and keep
doing it.

I
hope
you
can...



She said
she's gone
back to the
mountain.



If you
make her
home-
sickness
stronger...

...it'll
just lead
to more
pain for
her.



Ginko-
san!



It would be best
for
both of
you.

I
suggest
you don't
try to see
her
again.



Why
was she
chosen to
do that?



...that
I can
possibly
do for
Kaya...?

Is
that
all...



...did
it have
to be
Kaya?

...
Why...





You
should
never...

...forget
E, even
for a
moment!



I'm
going out
to cut
firewood.









— the mountain has gotten stranger little by little.

Ever since then...



I haven't
...seen any glimpse of Kaya.



Do you think... something has happened to her?



The animals are all fled up and the vegetation grows wild.

Even my little brother... His health has deteriorated recently.







I can't...

...be one with the mountain.



The mountain's voice.

I can't hear it anymore.



...happened here?

.....
what...







Those grass
ten-
drills...



...then they
shouldn't
have placed
you as
master in
the first
place.

if
they
can't
allow
that...



If you
can give
back your
power to the
mountain
before
then...

...you might
be able to
get through
this without
losing your
life.



They
haven't
put out
fruit
yet.



They
let the
mountain
know when
a new
master is
chosen.

They
bear fruit
when the
new
master is
given
life.

And
they
put out
a very
pretty
sound.





.....
It's done.



It may hurt a bit, but...



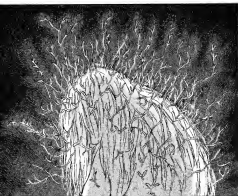
When you drink it, the grasses that link you to the mountain should be forced out of your body.

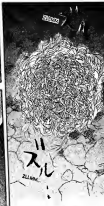


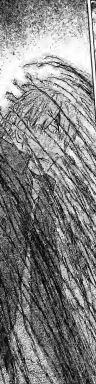
It's a very strong *Mushi-kudōshi*.



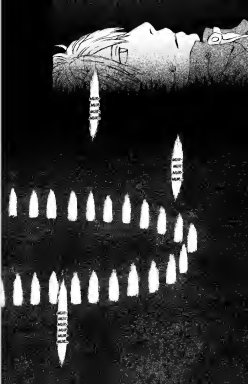
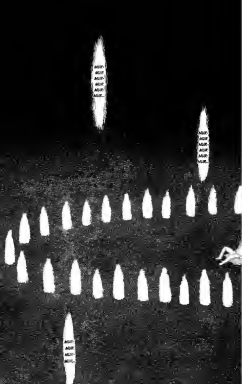
うん
うん













This is no
mushroom...

Going to it
here? It is
no mushroom



Go
this...

...is a
"Mushu
Gathering"...



It came to
return the
mushroom's
power.

Then the
mushroom
made a
mistake?

Disturbing
things happen
when humans
are involved!

The
"Ring of
Light,"
huh?

They bring
disturbing
ideas

.....
That's
right!

She should
never
have been
chosen as
master!

They should
never have
been made
master.

The rule of
life can, at
times, be
mastered.





I just
ask, you,
please do
not take
her life!

That's
why I'm
returning
the
master's
power!



...as
master
was your
mistake

choos-
ing a
human...

Choos-
ing
that
girl...



So even if
you crush
the corner-
stone of the
mountain...

...a small
bit of that
heart and
mind will
rise up
again.

Humans
have both
minds
and
hearts.



We aren't suited...

...to being
your master of the mountain!



That's what
masters
are
fragile



There are...at
one time
humans were
masters.



It is likely
that humans
will never
be made
master
again.

However,
it was a
failure.

Perhaps that
is why one
was chosen
now.



That is the
crisis-
quester. Is it
your wish?

They will
never
receive the
mountain's
water again.

Humans
will remove
the product
from the
mountain.

And
it...



...nothing more
than
a part
of the
mountain.

Humans
will...



Humans
won't be
removed.

Not
ever.

...must be
returned to
its basic
form.

This
man
here...

How-
ever...

Be that
as it
may.



...what this
creature did
breaks the
rule.

It is for
the rule to
decide.

I came
prepared
for that.

.....



Very
soft.

You will
come with
us.



Please
wait?





...for me
and the
mountain to
vanish?



This is...



Why
are you
here?!



It isn't like it's
your fault!

You
don't
have to
go!



I won't let
anybody take
my place!



Just
to the
end....

I saw
the
process
and
time.

I look...

...and
the
nature.

...the
hope and
life...

...I got to
live as a
human,
too.

I turned
life and
death...

...In case
she can't
be caught.

...always
together with
the mountain.



This isn't death.



But that's no reason for you to die!



I'm just not going to be an assassin.



Inside the "promise."

...and the mountains.
Inside the rule.



I'll be finding...

...between life...



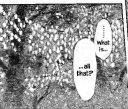
Just going
back home.

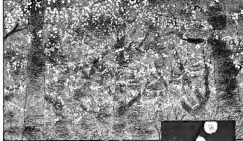


Wait!!



200%







Right now, it looks...

...just like it did back then!





it was a
beautiful
and sad
sound...



when i
was a
child...
...that
sound of
bells made
my heart
race.



...cut
my
heart
out
of my
body.

...that
could
have...



...now
it fills
me with
anguish.





But...

...where
am I?



I have
to go
back!

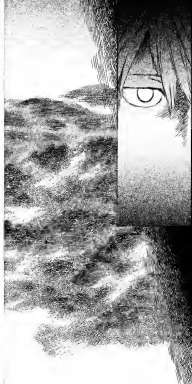
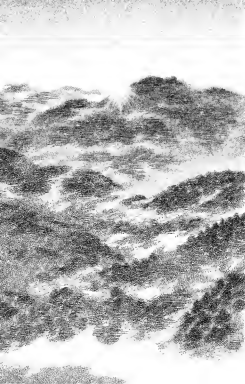


Ahh...
I get it.



I know
this
place.





It's
always
been there
behind
my other
eyelid.





Long
time,
no
see.



.....
Yo



.....
There's
a new
mas-
ter...

...that's
watching
over us.



Have there
been any
changes
to the
mountain
since?



You're
leaving
already?

See
you.

I'm just
enjoy-
ing the
rounds.



"...be
tween
life..."



"...and
the
mountain.
Inside the
cave."



"Inside
the
prom-
ise."

"It'll be
flow-
ing..."



...E.

"...any
problems
come up,
send for
me."

"I'm sure
every-
thing
will be
all right,
but..."



Now

I'd better be on my way.



WARRIOR



◎The Eternal Tree

There used to be an enormous camphor tree growing in a place close to my family's ancestral home. I loved the place where it grew because it always made me feel at peace. But one year, a typhoon came in and toppled it. I remember looking at the broken trunk and thinking how it must've hurt.

I love the phrase "Irenashi," and that's how I thought up this story. I heard from my mother how having children can change a woman's body. You're not only giving away a share of your blood, but you are also sheltering a different individual's life within you, and I couldn't help but think what a huge burden that must be.

◎Drops of Bells

I've heard it saying that the sound of bells is an imitation of the gods' voices. The sound is just so beautiful but I also think that somewhere in the sound is something very sad.

◎The Thread of Light

◎The Scented Darkness

Every year at the start of spring I savor the sweet-smelling dogfennel, and in the autumn, the fragrant orange olive trees bloom. Smelling them, I always get a feeling of nostalgia. I feel a flood of memories come back from earlier times, and I just love it. I thought that feeling would be even stronger at night.

Thanks to you all for following along on Ginko's journey. Truly, thank you very much! Now we will be parting ways with him, but we'll be happy if he continues his travels in much the same way he always has.

And here's hoping I can meet up with you in some fine place.

October 2008

志摩 友紀
Yuki Imashiro

Afterword

Thanks to you, we made it to Volume 10 to close the curtain on the series.

To everyone who helped support Hushishi!
My Editor from Afternoon, Takashi Miyazaki-sensei.
The designer, Foko Graphics-sensei.
My assistants!
Koyuki H-iwa & Hana Yozaki-chan.
Tayori Miyako-chan!
TSKO-chan! Yael!
Thank you so much!



Translation Notes

Tenno's raiment, page 15

"Hagoromo" is a Noh play about a fisherman who discovers some heavenly maidens (Tenno) bathing. Lying by the pool are their heavenly raiment (hagoromo). Wanting a garment as a trophy, he steals one. However, the maiden whose robe was stolen cannot return to heaven without it, so she agrees to dance for him in exchange for its return. The play is taken from Japanese mythology, but similar legends appear in China and Korea, and variations are found in India and in the Arabian Nights tales.

Mushi-kiri, page 20

The name for this medication is made up of the kanji for *mushi* and the kanji that means cut. It refers to cutting the connection between the human and the mask.

Yôshitsu, page 36

The name Yôshitsu is made up of *yô*, which means fairy or supernatural, and *shitsu* which means matter or substance. So it could be interpreted as fairy-stuff.

Palace of the Dragon King, page 51

The Dragon King (or Dragon God's) palace is featured in several Japanese myths, legends, and fairy tales, the most popular of which is the tale of Urashima Taro, who rescues a turtle. As a reward, a turtle messenger brings him to the Dragon God's palace at the bottom of the sea.

Satorigi, page 64

The word *satori* has found its way into the English language as a small or sudden enlightenment. In Japanese it means that as well, but its more down-to-Earth interpretation is simply "understanding." The kanji for *ki* means tree.

***Shinboku*, page 72**

Shinboku are trees that have been venerated as housing kami, the Shintō religion's animist deities, usually translated as "gods." Trees that are so designated are particularly long lived, unusually large, have survived disasters when most other trees didn't, or have had some other distinguishing attribute. Their trunks are often decorated with folded strips of white paper, a Shintō indicator of a sacred site.

***The Scented Darkness*, page 100**

The word *kaoru* means a scent, as in something pleasant. (Bad smells get other words.) Note that the character's name is also *Kaoru*, so this could also be interpreted as *Kaoru's* darkness.

***Kairō*, page 132**

The mushi name *Kairō* is made up of the kanji pronounced *kai*, which means to go through a cycle, and *rō*, which means narrow.

***Mushi-kudashi*, page 218**

There are actual medicines that go by the Japanese name of *mushi-kudashi*. They are medicines for purging parasites found within the body such as tapeworms and the like. In present-day Japan the kanji for *mushi* is the one meaning bug, whereas the *mushi-kudashi* that Ginko mentioned used the kanji for the *mushi* of the *Mushishi* world.

***Teni-muhā*, page 251**

Teni-muhō is a Japanese term meaning flawless, but it is made up of kanji that mean heaven, cloth, no, and seams. In other words, this word denoting perfection has a literal meaning of heavenly raiment with no seams.



You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*, go to the end!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.

